

### ABSTRACT

In a disk array apparatus, it had taken a very long time for a computer to recognize several thousand volumes, and most memory had been occupied [in the process]. Further, volume recognizing and splitting processes could not be easily carried out.

In a first embodiment of the present invention, a data storage apparatus has a management unit for sending to the computer a response for recognizing a virtual drive unit capable of treating the storage volume that is non-removable as a removable storage medium, and a storing unit for storing volume management information indicating the correspondent relationship between a virtual drive unit and a storage volume. The computer has an interface for receiving a response, and a management unit for recognizing, on the basis of the response, a virtual drive unit capable of treating the storage volume that is non-removable as a removable storage medium. The management unit of the data storage apparatus specifies a storage volume to be accessed on the basis of an access request from the computer to the virtual drive unit, and the volume management information.